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November 8, 2011

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to urge you to support the City of Buffalo's application for the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) TIGER Discretionary Grant Program for the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project, Buffalo New York. This application advances the City's highest priority capital project, the rebuilding of Main Street in downtown Buffalo, to return automobile access and to restore aging Metro Rail facilities. The Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project fully accomplishes the goals of the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program.

Both New York State and the US Congress have recently awarded funding to the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project in recognition of the importance of the project to the City of Buffalo. The 700 Block of Main Street was reopened in 2009 and the 600 Block of Main Street is scheduled for construction during 2012. A TIGER Discretionary Grant Program grant will allow the City to continue to upgrade transit and pedestrian amenities, improve access to Main Street buildings, improve downtown traffic circulation and re-introduce vehicular traffic along Buffalo's downtown transit mall.

Automobiles were removed from Main Street over 25 years ago when the light rail Metro Rail system was built. Metro Rail is a benefit to Buffalo, but closing the premier downtown street to automobiles has resulted in vacancy, lost property and tax value, and has harmed the image of Western New York as we work to attract new businesses and employers to our region. The Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project will reverse these effects, while generating significant economic benefit and transforming Buffalo's Main Street into a "beautiful and complete street."

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

